BENGALURU, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 17 | Humidity 40% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 60,663 | Nifty 17,871 | Gold 57,143 | Silver 67,580 | Dollar 82.55 | Euro 88.56 | GBP 99.69

Pilot project transforms type 6 and 7 plastic to plywood alternative for making benches/desks to be used in schools

BENCHMARK RECYCLING

Post Plastic Board team actively involves waste pickers

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Certain types of plastic can be recycled, and there are some that may be hard to recycle. There are seven types of recyclable plastics namely PET, HDPE, PP, LDPE, PVC, PS and Others.

The sixth and seventh categories (Polystyrene and Others) are said to be difficult to recycle, not accepted by most recycling facilities — these end up in landfills or at times, are burnt, releasing smoke that harms the environment.

Social impact organisation Hasiru Dala, that works with waste pickers/ workers to ensure a life of dignity for them, is now converting type 6 and 7 plastics to something useful.

"There are seven types of plastics, of which the seventh type is non-recyclable, consisting mostly of food packaging. One can incinerate it in coal furnaces or send it to landfills. These are of use in road construction that is slowly catching up, but no future recycling possibility,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"Eventually we want waste pickers to run the programme themselves and generate income

— Plastics programme manager, Hasiru Dala

Finest moments

Can traffic police collect penalties for violations committed more than six months ago?

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

There is a mad rush at jurisdictional traffic police stations to avail the 50% rebate on penalties for violation of traffic rules in the city. While there is a demand for the extension of the deadline to avail of the rebate, some are questioning the traffic police for collecting penalty for traffic violations committed more than six months ago.

The traffic police are not authorised to collect penalties for traffic violations that are more than six months old as per the Criminal Procedure Code 468.

The limitation of the CrPC 468 is six months if the offence is punishable with fine (penalty) only; one year, if the offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, and three years, if the offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term exceeding one year but not exceeding three years.

"Most of the traffic violations are considered as petty cases and the violators are liable to pay a penalty. The traffic police have to register cases and prosecute the traffic violators within six months of the offence," said advocate V Purushotham.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Ireland edu fair

'Education in Ireland', the Irish government's national brand promoting Irish Higher Education Institutions has announced its education roadshow. The fair will offer an overview of the opportunities Ireland has to offer to Indian students looking forward to studying abroad. Keeping the same in mind, 16 top Irish Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) will be visiting India to highlight the ample opportunities Ireland has to offer. **Where: Taj Vivanta, MG Road**
When: February 12, 12 pm onwards

02 The artsy route

Shankaraa Foundation presents 'Soma - Festival for the Arts'. This is a three-day cultural festival that celebrates traditional art and crafts, the festival is a celebration of arts and crafts, featuring 6 large scale productions in theatre, dance, and music, along with 100+ traditional craft stalls. The event also includes workshops, seminars, and demonstrations, and will feature performances by renowned artists such as Rukmini Vijayakumar, Vasu Dixit, Manasi Prasad, and Dr Suma Sudhindra among others.
Where: Shankaraa Foundation, Kanakapura Road
When: February 10 - 12

03 Dance it out!

The greatest of all competitions for dance, the Dance World Cup is expecting participation from 56 different countries with almost 1,800 competitors from across the world. India has bagged multiple gold, silver and bronze medals at the World Cup in the last 10 years, and it could be you this year! **Link: www.dwc-india.com**
Register: till 31st March

Time to make campuses menstruation-friendly?

Female students want better menstrual facilities to be provided on campus

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Ever since Kerala started menstrual leave for students in state universities recently, the 'menstruation benefits' have been a topic of discussion nationwide. However, though menstrual leaves are unlikely to be started in Karnataka or the rest of the country, there has been a set of guidelines issued to all the higher education institutes by the University Grant Commission (UGC) to make the campus more menstruation-friendly.

However, women studying in Bengaluru complain that the sanitation facilities in most of the colleges are not up to the mark and there is a lack of access to basic hygiene and sanitation facilities on campus.

"The facilities can definitely be improved. Though the women's restrooms are adequately clean most of the time, there are no bins to dispose of sanitary products sometimes. The same is the issue with soap or handwash. Most women carry their own products like sanitisers, sanitary pads, and menstrual cups as we are used to that now. There are no vending machines for sanitary pads on the campus," said Keerthi R, a college student from Bengaluru.

The UGC guidelines have advised the higher education institutes to provide clean and separate washrooms for female students with 24-hour running water facilities, availability of soaps and covered bins, and availability of sanitary pad incinerators and vending machines in all the buildings. Moreover, it also recommends creating awareness of the proper disposal of menstrual waste and promoting proper menstrual sanitation.

Students say sanitary pad vending machines and incinerators will help them be prepared and avoid skipping class

> **"This inconvenience due to lack of menstrual facilities is the reason behind women skipping classes** – Bhanvi Agarwal, a college student

The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also issued a similar advisory on menstrual health and hygiene for all the technological institutes in India.

"More than menstrual cramps, this inconvenience, and discomfort due to lack of sanitation facilities is the reason behind women skipping classes on their period. The bins start overflowing and no one takes notice until someone complains about it... The colleges should definitely have vending machines or sanitary pads stocked for female students and staff members. These are basic necessities," said Bhanvi Agarwal, another college student.

Authorities at educational institutes say that they will be taking a better look at the situation and will take necessary steps.

"Recently, one of the students pointed out the issue to me. I immediately asked the authorities concerned to take action and arrange all the necessary facilities for the students on campus like disposal bins, incinerators, etc. For vending machines and incinerators, it might take some time to be installed at the campus but we will be making sure to arrange them in all the campuses soon," said Lingaraj Gandhi, Vice-chancellor of Bangalore City University.

Prof Srinivas Balli, Vice Chancellor of Nrupathunga University said that they are making sure that all the new campuses are equipped with these facilities. "In the existing ones, we have an incinerator and the students are making use of it also. We do not yet have a vending machine for sanitary products," he explained.

Delving into mysteries of the brain

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Researchers from National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru and the University of Southern California (USC) will soon carry out a study among 400 people in Bengaluru, including healthy elderly adults and people with memory impairment. The volunteers will take part in the study on 'Global Aging and Mental Health' research for The Enhancing Neuro Imaging Genetics through Meta-Analysis (ENIGMA), India Initiative.

The five-year research on global brain aging is being funded by National Institute on Aging (NIA) or National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA, a grant of INR 21 crore. The project has been approved by the Health Ministry of the Government of India and the NIMHANS Institutional Ethics Committee and will be launched on February 9.

According to a recent nationwide study, the estimated number of persons living with dementia in India is 88 lakh. For a person with dementia, the brain age -- an estimate of the person's age computed from brain imaging measures using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) -- may be ahead of their actual age. This research will attempt to understand the multiple factors like psychosocial, lifestyle-related, genetic, amongst others, that can contribute to this 'brain-age gap'.

This study includes comprehensive assessment of risk and protective factors through clinical interview, memory and cognitive tests, blood investigations and brain imaging (MRI scan). The researchers will follow up with the participants over two years to understand the contribution of these factors to the risk of developing dementia. Dr G Venkatasubramanian, Professor of Psychiatry and Co-Principal Investigator of this study at NIMHANS said, "We expect to gain a much deeper understanding of the factors that lead to Alzheimer's through this study."

Senior professor and director of NIMHANS Dr Pratima Murthy said that insights from this study will substantially contribute towards health promotion and healthy aging in older adults.

The ENIGMA consortium, headed by Dr Paul M Thompson, Director, Imaging Genetics Centre (IGC), USC, has brought together researchers who study major brain diseases, from around 40 countries. Eminent researchers from NIMHANS, will be a part of this initiative. They will aim to study the factors contributing to brain aging in the Indian population that can lead to an increased risk for Alzheimer's and other related disorders.

There's more to the story

Experts say BMRCL data on tree survival post relocation comes with big twist

BMRCL relocated 1,120 trees between July 2021 and July 2022

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Between July 2021 and November 2022, the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) relocated 1,120 trees from multiple project sites. The corporation has now submitted a report on the survival rate of these trees to the Forest cell of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). According to the report, nearly 70 per cent of the trees are showing survival symptoms. But here is the catch.

Out of all the trees, 343 were translocated between July 2021 and July 2022, and 777 trees were translocated in November and December 2022. While only 32 trees (18 per cent) out of 343 are showing survival symptoms, 687 out of the 777 trees (88 per cent) that were translocated only a couple of months ago have shown survival symptoms as per the report.

The report also includes the translocation of 110 trees between the Kasturinagar and Kempapura areas, stating that all the trees translocated from this stretch have shown survival symptoms.

Experts said that it is pointless to access trees for survival symptoms if they have not completed at least six months in the new habitat.

BangaloreMirror

Transplant rejection: Just 8% of trees transferred out of Metro's way made it

Experts slam poor success rate, say transfer of unsuitat trees or those with high girth size reason for bad show

BM's report on Oct 24, 2022 spoke of the low success rate of tree translocation

"A 100 per cent success rate in translocation is unheard of. A 60-70 per cent rate is optimum, although a handful of species with extensive root systems tend to undergo total recovery. The ideal period to access the trees for survival information is six months. Nothing can be said with certainty in a couple of months," said Dr C Chandaraiah, retired professor of the department of forestry and environmental science, GKVK, and a botanist.

Botanists explained that while newly transplanted trees might start sprouting leaf buds, new shoots, tree branchlets, and new leaves a few days post translocation, these signs do not prove survival success.

"In some cases, stored food in the translocated tree can sustain the tree for a few days. Due to that, the root system might also grow in some species. Stored food can also lead to leaf and root initiation. However, this does not indicate that the tree in question will survive the process in the long run," added Chandaraiah.

Experts said that such early assessment of trees is the result of the rapid pace of development in the city. Some also point to the lack of apathy towards the ongoing drastic habitat alteration of Bengaluru.

"The agencies are in a hurry to carry out translocation, prepare the reports, and get done with that aspect. It is time that foresters and activists get actively involved in the translocation of trees being done by all agencies. There are more than 800 colleges and three universities in the city with postgraduate departments in botany science. We also have the University of Agricultural Sciences. However, none of these institutions have exhibited any social obligation in the relocation and preservation process of trees in the city. While the city is undergoing a drastic alteration and turning into a concrete jungle, the deafening silence of experts is inexcusable," said Ravindra Reshme, a retired Botany professor.

Woman mows down biker with car

A woman who ran over a biker in Bengaluru with her car after using the accelerator instead of brakes has been arrested by the police.

The accused admitted to the authorities that she had used the accelerator rather than the brakes. According to the police, the incident took place on Tuesday on Hesaraghatta Main Road.

The deceased has been identified as Sanjay Babu. Sanjay was riding the bike with his son Vedanth. The accused ran over the bike, killing Sanjay. His son is being treated at a hospital.

"Vedanth is being treated at a hospital and a case has been filed against the woman. We are still investigating the case," said an official from the Peenya Traffic police station.

-BMB

Student harassed in city

An incident has come to light in Bengaluru where a man grabbed the hand of a young woman and dragged her along in an indecent manner.

The same took place in the Kumaraswamy Layout police station limits. The victim, an engineering student at a private college, was returning back after finishing college at around 1 pm on Monday. At this time, four men on two bikes misbehaved with the young woman in the middle of the road.

"One of them suddenly grabbed the hand of the young girl and dragged her along, behaving indecently. She managed to escape from there," said the police.

The Kumaraswamy Layout Police is investigating the matter.

-BMB

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Tractor ban turns out bane for migrants' kin

Several migrant labourers, mostly from northern K'taka, will see livelihoods being affected by this

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Below: Several migrant labourers and their families live in temporary sheds on the outskirts of the city and will be impacted harshly

Although the intention of Bengaluru Traffic Police banning movement of tractors in the city is to ensure smooth movement of vehicles, families that migrated from north Karnataka to Bengaluru have been adversely affected. Thousands of people that are dependent on tractors for work are now in grave trouble.

These families mostly reside in temporary sheds on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Majority of them have been living in the city for more than a decade. They have been supporting their kin by working as labourers engaged in loading and unloading debris, construction materials, and silt removed from roadside drains.

According to the Bengaluru Rural Tractor Owners' Association president, Ninganna Tadibidi, there are around 40,000 tractors in the city and more than one lakh labourers. Most of them are from north Karnataka and they depend on tractors for their livelihood.

"We have requested the traffic police to lift the ban, but in vain. We will stage a protest at Freedom Park on Thursday demanding the government to reconsider the move. We want the government, especially traffic police, to allow tractors to ply on city roads during specific hours," said Tadibidi.

Tadibidi, who owns two tractors and supports the livelihoods of around 10 people from north Karnataka, told Bangalore Mirror that he bought these tractors on a loan from a bank. "I have to pay the monthly instalment of Rs 14,800 for each tractor. With the ban on tractors, I am worried about paying this monthly instalment to the bank. I cannot go back to my native place to earn money. I came to Bengaluru eight years ago and bought my tractors four years back," he said. Numerous families are residing in temporary sheds put up near Kodigehalli Lake. "I came here four years ago. I get Rs 600 a day for loading and unloading debris, silt, or other waste material. I used to support my parents by sending back money to them every month. I do not know how to send money to my parents this month," said Anjaneya M from Yadgir.

> **"We will stage a protest at Freedom park on Thursday morning demanding the government to reconsider the move**
> – Ninganna Tadibidi, tractor owner

Expressing similar opinions, Renuka from Yadigir said that she used to get Rs 300 per day for assisting others to load and unload debris. "I have been residing at this temporary shelter for six years. I am trying to work as a construction labourer, but there is no building construction happening in the vicinity," she lamented.

It has been a norm for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to allocate Rs 15 lakh per ward to engage a tractor, driver, and labourers for the maintenance of roadside drains, removing silt, and clearing demolition material dumped in the ward. All these years, the Palike has been engaging around 200 tractors, 200 drivers, and 600 labourers (three labourers for each tractor), and has spent Rs 2,70,00,000 per year. Namma Karnataka Sene president Basavaraju Padukote has extended support to the protest by Bengaluru Rural District Tractor Owners' Association.

Arkavathi river can't seem to pass test

A recent report on the Arkavathi river by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) shows that its water quality is still unsatisfactory. According to the December 2022 analysis prepared by the board under the central government's National Water Monitoring Program, the river continues to be polluted despite four years of relentless monitoring.

Bangalore Mirror had earlier reported on the water quality analysis data from the Kanakapura monitoring station, showing that over the last four years, no major improvement had been noticed. The data showed that in May 2022, the dissolved oxygen (DO) value of the water body was 4.4, the biological oxygen demand (BOD) of the river was 9, the fecal coliform count level was 8,400, and the total coliform count was 1,60,000.

The water quality recorded in 2018 was slightly better. In May 2018, the DO value was 3.9, BOD level was estimated to be around 5, the fecal coliform count reading was 7,900, and the total coliform count was 1,60,000.

The December 2022 analysis has not seen any improvements either.

According to Dr TV Ramachandra, while monitoring and analysis of river water quality are essential, it has to be accompanied by mitigation programs too. Water bodies receive pollutants from point and non-point sources, which include industries and households, and agricultural runoff, respectively. Penalising the polluters and bringing down pollution sources are the only ways to improve the situation.

File photo of Arkavathi river; a recent report deemed its water quality 'unsatisfactory'

"The board should have implemented the 'polluter pays' principle long back and booked industries polluting the water body. Industries and municipalities should be fined heavily," he said.

Experts said that although it is easier to take action against point sources, further degradation of water quality only proves that the polluters are not being identified and there is not much being done to reduce the pollutant load.

"The fact that the water quality of the river has not improved over time only indicates that pollutants continue to enter the water body unabated. While norms state that there should be zero discharge from industries, many industries along the course of the Arkavathi river have been releasing pollutants directly into the water. The pollution control board must catch hold of them," added Ramachandra.

Dense and healthy riparian vegetation along the water plays an important role in the biological removal of pollutants too, added experts.

"When it comes to non-point sources of pollution, such as agricultural land, riparian vegetation plays a significant role. It not only arrests the flow of nutrients into the water body, but also other pollutants such as heavy metals," said a city-based ecologist. **— BMB**

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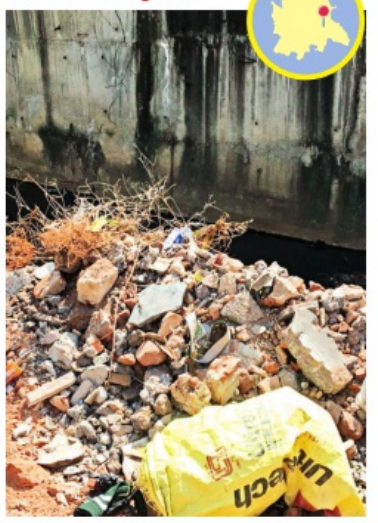
Unchecked littering

KR Puram

The KR Puram market bus stop area is being used as a garbage dump.

Debris downer

Victoria Layout



The stormwater drain on Palmgrove Cross Road, Victoria Layout is full of debris.

Bottleneck

Race Course Road

In Race Course Road, opposite Bangalore Turf Club, the island is becoming a traffic bottleneck.

NEET change: Small mercy, but students want postponement of exams

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Following weeks of protests by medical students, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has further extended the last date of completion of internship for eligibility to August 11, 2023, for NEET PG exam.

The deadline for NEET-MDS 2023 has also been extended to June 30, 2023.

The decision to extend the last date of completion of internship was taken after the medical community pointed out that almost 13,000 students from across five states and UTs in India were still ineligible for NEET-PG 2023 due to delayed internship.

Along with this, the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) has also decided to reopen the registration window for NEET-PG and NEET-MDS examinations on February 9 and February 10 respectively.

Though the medical community have lauded the move by the MoHFW, the demand for the exam to be postpones is still ongoing.

The NEET-PG examination is currently scheduled to be held on March 5. Students say that since the deadline for internship has been extended twice already, the gap between the exam and expected counselling date is too much.

"The expected date for the counselling is in September 2023 and the examination is on March 5. That is a gap of more than five months that is of no use to the students. Why can they not consider our demand to extend the examination date also?" said Randeep, a NEET PG aspirant.

With the extension of internship completion deadline, 13,000 more MBBS students and around 300 BDS students will be eligible for the post-graduate examinations.

"For the students who have just received the notice that they are eligible, there are barely 25 days to prepare for the exam now that too in the middle of their medical internship. The authorities have a habit of making last-minute decisions that end up costing the students. It has already been very stressful for the medical students with the academic year cut short due to pandemic and delayed internships. We urge the authorities to consider our plea for the exam to be postponed," he added.

The students also said that with less than a month left for the examination, many of them have been facing stress-related issues.

"We need more health care warriors and many would not qualify if they won't get proper time for preparation. It is important that the authorities consider the plea of the students. It's better we expedite the counselling and keep the exam after two months," said Adv Anubha Sahai, child rights activist, who has been protesting for the issues in competitive exams.

Long arm of the cybercriminal

There is too much cybercrime, and too few police personnel to tackle such incidents

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

There is an increase in cybercrime cases in the city. As many as 1,228 cases were registered in January this year but due to lack of human resources, the police are struggling to solve the cases.

Even though more than 1,000 cases have been registered in just one month, there is a shortage of staff in Cyber Economic and Narcotics (CEN) police stations to investigate them. Moreover, the government is yet to open the CEN stations at the sub-division level. Due to this, cybercrime cases are taking time to be resolved.

"A month back I registered a complaint against my ex-boyfriend who was blackmailing me using my private videos that I had shared with him. One of my friends suggested that I should approach the cybercrime police for it, but when I registered the complaint, nothing happened from the authorities' side and I had to solve the matter personally," said S, a resident of Indiranagar.

Another person who was the victim of cyberbullying said that they didn't register a police complaint because they were not aware of the laws.

"The main problem is that most of the people from my age group are on social media and we sometimes come across toxic bullying. But most of us are not aware that we can lodge a complaint regarding it and so we choose to keep quiet.

I think that there need to be more awareness workshops in schools and colleges that teach us about the consequences of cybercrime," said 19-year-old Soumya, studying at Christ University.

Most cyber cases have been registered under the jurisdiction of South East CEN police, with 223 cases registered in a month. Then, 215 cases in North Division CEN Police Station, 160 cases in Whitefield Division CEN Police Station, 155 cases in North East Division CEN Police Station, 145 cases in South Division CEN Police Station, 122 cases in East Division CEN Police Station, 118 cases in West Division CEN Police Station and 90 cases have been registered in CEN Police Station of Central Division.

> **"Main problem is that most of the people from my age group are on social media and we sometimes come across toxic bullying. But most of us are not aware that we can lodge a complaint**
>
> – Soumya, College student

Inaction hurts

Mirza Faizan Asad, cyber security expert, says that inaction by the police in catching the accused is the main reason behind increasing cybercrime cases.

"The main reason behind increasing cybercrimes is inaction by the police. Whenever you file an FIR, it is pending for a long time and no action is taken.

This gives culprits the idea that they can engage in cyber crime and still get away with it.

The second thing is that people are not aware about online frauds, a lot of people get cheated on using online banking apps or clicking on a link," he said.

Aero India show: Flight operations at B'luru airport to be impacted for 10 days from today

The flight operation at the KempeGowda International Airport, Bengaluru (KIAL) will be affected in the backdrop of Aero India Show 2023 scheduled to be held between February 13 and 17. The authorities have announced that the flight services will be partially suspended for 10 days from Wednesday ahead of the 14th edition of the show.

The show will be held at the Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru and the preparations are in full swing. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Bengaluru to inaugurate the spectacular international show of metal birds.

"There will be partial air space closure during Aero India 2023 impacting commercial flight schedules between 08 -17 February, 2023," the official announcement of KIAL stated. The passengers have been asked to look into the official portal to know more about the flight schedules.

The KIAL has announced airspace closure timings and for queries on revised, changed flight schedule, passengers are asked to get connected to their respective airline. "We request all passengers travelling through Bengaluru airport during this period to plan the travel time accordingly," the statement said.

The Bengaluru airport flight operation would be closed for rehearsals between 2 pm to 5 pm on February 8. On February 12 it will remain closed from 9 am to 12 pm for the same reason.

On February 13, flight operations will be closed between 9 am and 12 pm for the inauguration ceremony and Air Display. On February 14 and 15, the Bengaluru airport would be closed for Air Display between 12 pm to 2.30 pm On February 16 and 17, the flight operations will be suspended from 9 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm for Air Display. **–IANS**

Fight for rights continues

Demand: Direct payment is must

Pourakarmikas stage protest asking BBMP to adopt direct payment system for thousands of workers, threaten 'massive protest' in future

Pourakarmikas working on contract basis staging protest on BBMP Head Office premises on Wednesday

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A protest was organised on Wednesday by BBMP Pourakarmikas Trade Unions Joint Action Committee demanding the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to introduce a direct payment system (DPS) for thousands of pourakarmikas working with contractors.

"We are demanding the BBMP authorities to include thousands of pourakarmikas engaged by garbage contractors in the list of pourakarmikas availing the direct payment system," said Dr Babu, president of BBMP Pourakarmikas Trade Unions Joint Action Committee.

The state government decided to meet 11 demands of pourakarmikas last year. However, those demands are yet to be met.

The BBMP has to regularise the services of 3673 pourakarmikas under the direct payment system, he added.

"We also want the BBMP to regularise 13,000 pourakarmikas under the direct payment system, 593 compactor vehicles drivers, 9292 auto tipper drivers and assistants and 1779 loaders," he explained.

The other demand is that the BBMP has to sanction Rs 20,000 for conducting final rites and Rs 10 lakh compensation if any serving pourakarmika passes away.

"We are submitting a memorandum to the BBMP Chief Commissioner. We wait some time for the positive response from the BBMP authorities. If not, we may consider organising a huge protest in future. The agitation may have an adverse impact on the door to door collection of garbage in the city," he further added.

Contractual health workers launch hunger strike

FILE PHOTO OF A PROTEST

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The contractual health staff, appointed under the National Health Mission (NHM), started an indefinite strike on Monday. With no official order released by the government to meet the demands of contractual workers, the staff have now begun a hunger strike, demanding insurance, increased salaries, job security and equal pay for equal work.

The contractual workers and members of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangha, together with 5000 plus people, have been protesting at Freedom Park.

While some of the health officials from NHM and Horticulture Minister Munirathna came forward and gave assurances to the Karnataka State Health and Medical Education Department Contractual and Outsource Employees' Association (KSHCOEA) employees. However, the workers have decided to continue their protest until written orders are passed by the government.

On Tuesday, one of the health staff from KSHCOEA collapsed while protesting and was taken to the hospital for treatment. She was given IV fluids and she returned to protest on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, another staff member fainted as the members were on a hunger strike.

"The health care worker was taken to the KC General Hospital for treatment. As we are on a hunger strike and since she hadn't eaten since morning, she felt tired and needed an immediate hospital assistant. Despite our struggle, none of the officials are meeting our demands" said Association president Vishwaradhya HY.

The KSHCOEA members also reached out to the Chief Minister Basvaraj Bommai to demand relief for 23,000 contractual workers in the state. The CM asked them to stay positive and said that the government will soon look into the demands.

"We want the government to implement the PN Srinivasachari committee report that has recommended a 15 per cent hike in salaries of all contract staff, and provide health insurance and other benefits," Vishwaradhya added.

Unless the government releases official order in settling the demands of the contractual health staff, the protest will not be called off. The association has been demanding for making services permanent and preferences in future recruitments as well. Yet nothing has been finalised by the government, he informed.

Trash to Post Plastic Board

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thereafter. This waste constitutes about 30-40% of all post consumer plastics. Hence a technology should be put to use to try and convert this plastic," plastics programme manager at Hasiru Dala said.

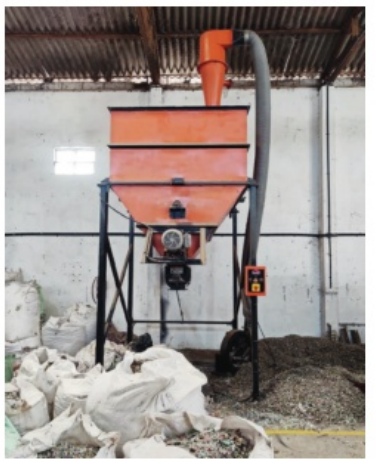
Hasiru Dala through funds from Mondelez India came out with a technology that produces a Post Plastic Board, a plywood alternative, from the aforementioned discarded plastics. The pilot work began in 2022 at Machohalli, Magadi Road, where a centre has been set up.

"These types of waste are generally not collected by waste pickers as they do not get income from the trash; so these are usually discarded at the dry waste collection centres (DWCC). Now we have technology that converts the waste through mechanical recycling, through which we are converting all the delivery food packaging waste, tetra packs, chips packets and other discards as raw material for making a plywood alternative," he said.

Mechanical recycling is the process of recovering plastic waste by mechanical processes such as sorting, washing, drying, grinding, re-granulating and compounding.

The 'Post Plastic Board' team involves some waste pickers as well; the waste sector workers are paid based on kilograms of plastic waste collected. Over 300 plywood boards are made every month. Desks and benches are made of these boards to be used in schools. Four schools in Sarakki, MS Palya, Peenya and Jolly Mohalla have been given benches 1.5 metre in length that can accommodate three students.

"Over 12-15 tonnes of the waste is used to make 300 boards. The aim is to make 110 benches and provide them to various schools. We make around 12-15 boards daily. Boards can be used to make lightweight sheds, home furniture and in the building of houses. The advantage is this board does not warp in water. We are also selling these boards. Recently, buyers from Chennai ordered boards to use as house partitions," the project manager told BM.



Hasiru Dala has come out with technology to make a plywood alternative from discarded plastics

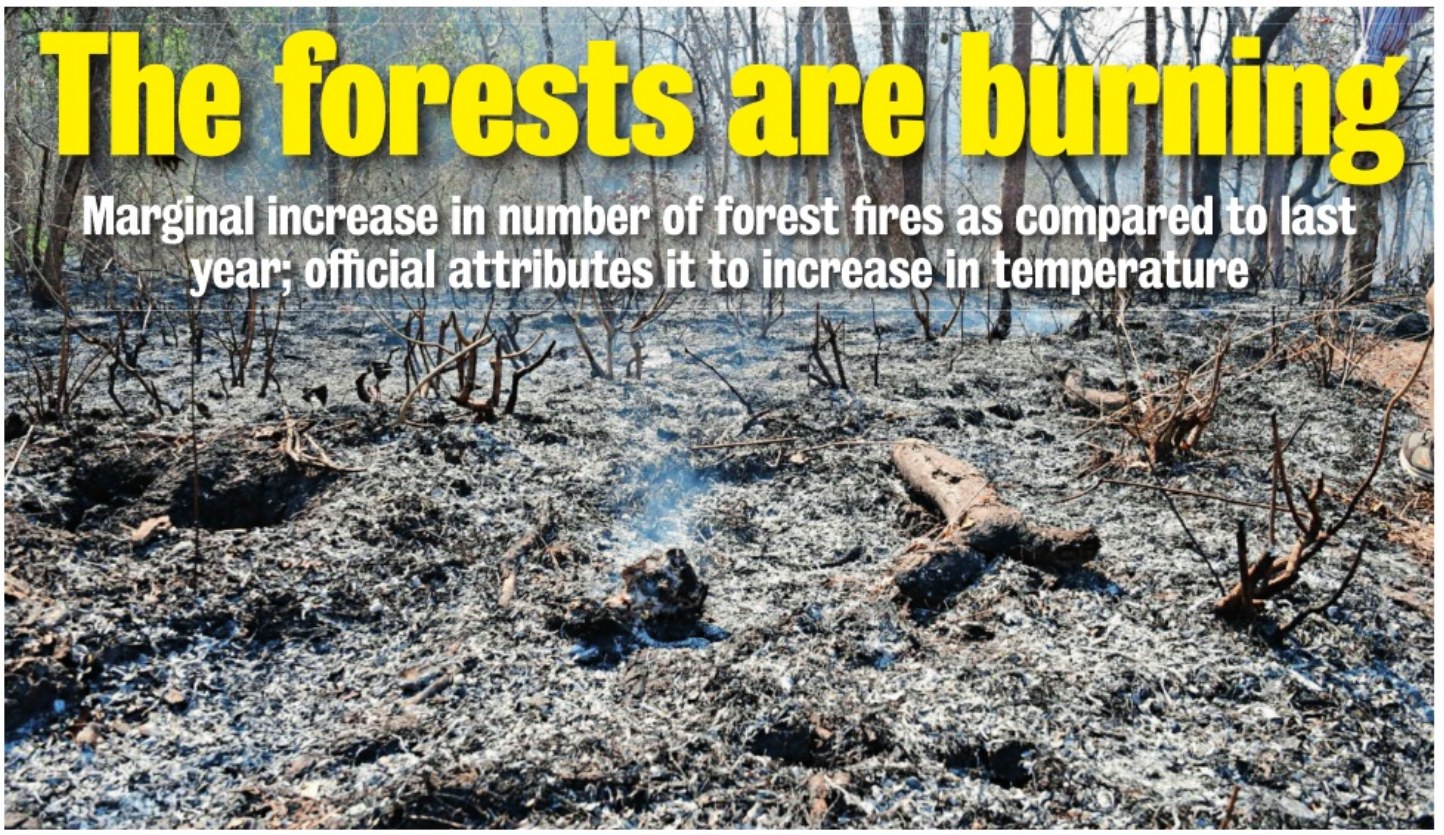
"After the phase one of the pilot, of making 110 benches, is completed, the organisation will scale it up... Eventually we want waste pickers to run the programme themselves and generate income," he said.

Seven types of plastic waste

PET is Polyethylene Terephthalate comprising bottles, jars, clothing, carpets, mouthwash bottles, shampoo bottles, etc. HDPE or High Density Polyethylene includes detergent containers, jugs, trash bins, plant pots, garden furniture, snack boxes and so on. PVC or Polyvinyl Chloride includes wires, cable fittings, windows, door frames and the like. Low Density Polyethylene or LDPE includes shopping bags, bubble wrap and packaging film. Polypropylene or PP consists of diapers, drinking straws, fibres, bottle tops, tarps and such. Polystyrene or PS constitutes plastic foam cups, packing peanuts, yogurt boxes, meat trays, toys, egg boxes while the Others section has baby bottles, water coolers, medical waste, car parts, disks, tetra packs, chips packets and so forth.

The forests are burning

Marginal increase in number of forest fires as compared to last year; official attributes it to increase in temperature



Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With the onset of the forest fire season, the number of wildfire incidents across Karnataka seems to have worsened this year. According to the data provided by the Forest Resource Management wing of the Karnataka Forest Department, as many as 886 incidents of forest fire have been reported in January this year.

The number of such incidents reported in January 2022 was 707 and in January 2021, it was 884.

"We have been noticing a marginal increase in the number of forest fire incidents in January. This surge can be attributed to the increase in temperature," said a senior official from the department.

Officials say while they are already recording fire incidents this season, the department is on its toes and is following up with the on-ground officers to ensure better management.

From creating fire lines based on a fire resonation map to deploying fire tenderers from the Karnataka Fire Services department; and from engaging more fire watchers to creating awareness among the communities living in and around the forest areas, officials say, the department is not leaving any stone unturned in the management and prevention of wildlife incidents.

Temperature, wind direction, fuel availability, and historic data are some aspects being studied to pinpoint the area vulnerable to fire.

"We have developed fire resonation maps in association with the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Application Center (KSRSAC). The map helps us in pinpointing regions that are prone to forest fire, based on various factors such as the temperature regime of an area and the type of vegetation. We are focusing more on these regions and taking precautionary measures as required. We are spending around Rs 20 crore annually on prevention and management of forest fire alone," said a senior official.

According to officials, while all the available technologies are being deployed at fire sites, the department is looking forward to adding some novel technologies to its arsenal to tame big fire incidents in the future.

"We will soon get two more thermal-sensor drones to help us in the detection of forest fires. Our staff will be trained as well in operating these drones," informed the official.

Experts express concern

While forest fires are recurring and common phenomena, a surge in their frequency can be a reason to worry.

"Higher incidences of forest fire show that our management strategy is not appropriate. While such incidents can be natural or human-induced, most of the fires in recent times are human-induced; deliberately done due to vested interests such as land encroachment," said Dr. T V Ramachandra, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

According to DV Girish, wildlife conservationist, and environmentalist, although the department has been creating fire lines regularly, maintenance and monitoring have not been up to the mark.

"These fire lines have to be better managed and monitored though. For instance, while the department has created fire lines in my work area (Chikkamgaluru), management of the fire lines has been neglected. I have witnessed a fire incident in this area already this year that took place due to mismanagement. Once the fire lines are neglected, there is always a chance of fire slipping out and burning the surrounding area," said Girish.

Experts also point to a high rate of forest fragmentation leading to higher incidents of a forest fires. They further advocate enhancement in the number of foot soldiers by the department to keep vigilance all around the clock.

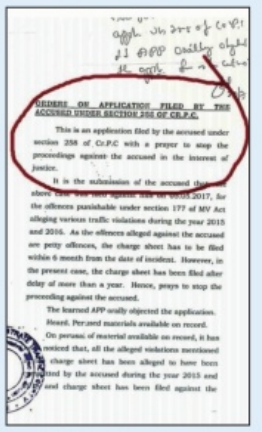
"While forest guards and range forest officers play the most important role in forest fire management, the department must also focus on involving local communities and make them partners in various activities being taken up. The degradation of the forest ecosystem is yet another reason behind the higher number of forest fires. A fragmented forest area gives way to higher anthropogenic activities, leading to more fire incidents," added Dr Ramachandra.

Final rush

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Expressing a similar opinion, S Umapathy, a High Court advocate, recalled the Metropolitan Magistrate Traffic Court judgment of July 21, 2018.

"I was the advocate for an accused of traffic rules violation. There were more than 60 traffic violations against him. However, the honourable judge ordered to stop the proceedings against the accused as the traffic police did not file the charge sheet within the stipulated time," said Umapathy.



ORDERS ON APPLICATION FILED BY THE ACCUSED UNDER SECTION 258 OF CR.P.C.

This is an application filed by the accused under section 258 of Cr.P.C with a prayer to stop the proceedings against the accused in the interest of justice.

It is the submission of the accused that ... above case was taken against him on 05.05.2017, for the offences punishable under section 177 of MV Act alleging various traffic violations during the year 2015 and 2016. As the offences alleged against the accused are petty offences, the charge sheet has to be filed within 6 month from the date of incident. However, in the present case, the charge sheet has been filed after delay of more than a year. Hence, prays to stop the proceeding against the accused.

The learned APP orally objected the applications.

Heard. Perused materials available on record.

On perusal of material available on record, it has noticed that, all the alleged violations mentioned ... charge sheet has been alleged to have been ... by the accused during the year 2015 and ... charge sheet has been filed against the ...

The traffic police filed a case against the accused on May 5, 2017, for the offences punishable under Section 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act alleging various traffic violations during the year 2015 and 2016. The accused filed an application in the Metropolitan Magistrate Traffic Court under the Section 258 of Criminal Procedure Code with a prayer to stop proceedings against him in the interest of justice.

"As the offences alleged against the accused are petty offences, the charge sheet has to be filed within six months from the date of incident. However, in the present case, the charge sheet has been filed after a delay of more than a year. Hence from the above observation, in the interest of justice, proceeding against the accused is stopped," said Metropolitan Magistrate Traffic Court Judge in a judgement delivered on July 21, 2018.

Complaint against website

S Amaresh, managing trustee of The Wheels wrote a letter to special commissioner (traffic) MA Saleem against the inconvenience caused while opening the traffic police website, http://btp.gov.in

"There is no provision in the website to check the images captured by the CCTVs in violation of traffic norms," said Amaresh.

Battery waste disposal: K'taka 8th in country

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Karnataka ranks eighth in the country when it comes to recycling, refurbishing and collection centres for used, discarded and overloaded batteries of all kinds. The state has an annual recycling and refurbishing capacity of 4,19,056 metric tonne of battery waste.

Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 have been notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in supersession of Batteries (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001 to ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries.

The new rules broadened the scope of battery which encompasses all types of batteries (Electric Vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries and industrial batteries whereas Batteries

(Management and Handling) Rules, 2001 covered only lead acid batteries.

As per the new rules, every recycler/ refurbisher of a used/ waste battery is required to register with the State Pollution Control Board/ Pollution Control Committee through the centralised online portal of CPCB.

Rajasthan has the maximum number of units (121), followed by Maharashtra (94), West Bengal (61), Haryana (58), Madhya Pradesh (56), Punjab (55) and Gujarat (41) ahead of Karnataka.

According to Press Information Bureau, "The rules function based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) where the producers (including importers) of batteries are responsible for collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries and use of recovered materials from wastes into new batteries. EPR mandates that all waste batteries be collected and sent for recycling/refurbishment, and it prohibits disposal in landfills and incineration. To meet the EPR obligations, producers may engage themselves or authorise any other entity for collection, recycling or refurbishment of waste batteries. The rules will enable setting up a mechanism and centralised online portal for exchange of EPR certificates between producers and recyclers/refurbishers to fulfil the obligations of producers.

"Online registration and reporting, auditing, and a committee for monitoring the implementation of rules and to take measures required for removal of difficulties are salient features of rules for ensuring effective implementation and compliance."

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Extortionists in the garb of courier company executives

CRIME FILES

In two separate incidents, scammers acting as executives of courier companies threatened two women in the city claiming that their delivery boxes contained illegal products and that they would tell the police if they didn't pay up. The criminals demanded a total of Rs 2.4 lakh from them.

In one of the cases, a man calling himself a courier firm employee informed the woman in November that she had a package with cash in her name. She agreed to pay him out of fear after the caller threatened to report her to the Enforcement Directorate for money laundering. She paid the amount and then reported the incident to the police. A case has been filed against the accused Under sections 66c (identity theft) and 66d (cheating using computer resources) of the IT Act, 2000, as well as sections 419 (cheating by impersonation) and 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code.

POCSO: 20 years' jail

A person accused of raping a minor was sentenced to 20 years in prison by the court. The accused Periyaswamy was also asked to pay Rs 20,000 as a fine.

On the morning of February 10, 2020, Periyaswamy is said to have entered a house when two minors were at home. He gave money to one of them and sent her to a shop and raped the other. Based on the victim's parents' complaint, the police registered a case. — BMB

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I Jyothi Innanji w/o Raghavendra N R/o #886 6th Cross Gokul 1st Stage 1st Phase Mathikere B'luru 560054 have changed my name to Jyothi Raghavendra for all purposes.

I Parwather Ramesh S/O, Parvathaiah R/o # 765 , Water Tank , Nagavalli , Chamaraja Nagar , Karnataka , 571342 . have changed my name to Parvathaiah Ramesh

I, SANGEETA NEGI, W/o, Jitender Sajwan and Residing at A-201, Sashank Florento Sambhram College Road, Near Amba Bhavani Temple, Dodda bettahalli Village, Bangalore 560097 have changed my name to SANGEETA SAJWAN vide Affidavit dated 07.02.2023 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana, B.lore.

I, SHARMA VANDANA MAHESH alias VANDANA GAURAV SHARMA, W/o Durgesh Kumar and resident at Flat No 406, A Block, Placid Vista, Keerthi Signature, Sy No 139, Whitefield, Off ITPL Main Road, Hoodi, Bengaluru-560048, have changed my name as VANDANA SHARMA, vide affidavit dated 07.02.2023 sworn before notary Rajanna S.M, Bengaluru.

I, DURGESH KUMAR SHARMA, resident at Flat No 406, A Block, Placid Vista Keerthi Signature, Sy No 139 Whitefield, Off ITPL Main Road, Hoodi, Bengaluru-560048, have changed my name as DURGESH KUMAR, vide affidavit dated 07.02.2023 sworn before notary Rajanna S.M, Bengaluru.

I, AFSAR MOHINUDDIN R/at No.39, Rock Areas Rahmath Nagar R T Nagar Post, Bangalore- 560032 have changed my name to AFSAR MOHIDDIN vide affidavit dated: 7/2/2023 Before Notary V. Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I MOHAMED HATIM S/o Nayaz Ahmed R/o No 28/1, 4th Cross, Vinayakangar Nagar, Bangalore 26 have changed my name to MOHAMED HATEEM for all purposes.

I Samridhi Vyas W/O, Vatsal Purohit R/o Villa No. 55, Vatsalya, Prestige Summerfields, Doddakannelli Kaadubeesanahalli Road, Bhoganahalli, Bellandur, Bengaluru, 560103 have changed my name to Samridhi Purohit for all purposes.

I, MOHAMMED DASTAGIRI R/at No.114, 5th A Main, 5th Cross Rahmath Nagar Bangalore- 560032, have changed my name to MOHAMMED DASTAGIR vide affidavit dated: 7/2/2023 Before Notary V. Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, MOHAMED ISMAIL R/at No. 2085 Ward No Indadiya Mohalla Kunigal Tumkur-572130 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD ISMAIL vide affidavit dated:7/2/2023 Before Notary V. Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, NAZUNNISA, W/o, Nisar Ahmed and Residing at No.14, Sathanur, Bengaluru 562149, Karnataka, India have changed my name to NAJAUNNISA vide Affidavit dated 03.02.2023 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana, B.lore.

I, Geeta Vilas Deshpande w/o Vilas R Deshpande R/o #121 New No.41, Mithra Kuteer S-3 2nd floor, 6th cross, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560018 have changed my name to Geetha Vilas Deshpande affidavit Dt.06/02/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M. V, B'luru

I, Mohan Kumar Machohalli Venkatesh R/o #362/1, Magadi main road, Machohalli Colony, Machohalli, Bengaluru 560091 have changed my name to Mohan Kumar affidavit Dt.08/02/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I Parthiban S/O, Subramani R/o No 57 St Gasper Vidyalaya Kithaganur Krishnaraj Puram Bangalore 560036 have changed my name to Parthiban S for all purposes

I, Haarisha Jamaludeen D/O, Anappuram Mohamed Jamaludheen R/o 20712, Nikoo Homes 1, Tower 2, Bhartiya City, Thanisandra Main Road, Bangalore - 560064 have changed my name to Haarisha Jamaludheen for all purposes.

I, Renu, R/o K 0142, Brigade Parkside East, Sarjapur Rd, Hadosiddapura, Bengaluru have changed my name to Renu Singh forever vide affidavit dated 08.02.2023 sworn before Notary B.M.Chandrasekhar, Bangalore.

I Sneha S M W/o Sathya narayana B R/o #63, 3rd Cross, Prakruthinagar, Bharathnagar 2nd Stage, Magadi Main Rd, B'luru-560091 have changed my name to Snehasathyanarayan for all purposes

I old Name. Manjula Devi new name. Manju Devi W/O Mafat lal p Shah No 83 Akkipet main road Akkipet Bangalore 560053 sworn Affidavit V. Rajashekhara Date 02/01/2023

I Khumukucham Supriya D/O, Khumukcham Neta Meetei R/o #301, Sunshine Residency, Sapthagiri Layout have changed my name to Khumukcham Supriya

I, Nagesh Kaladagi s/o Shankar R/o #378, Muneer Ahmed Building, Rajivgandhi Nagar, Jigani, Bengaluru 560099 have changed my name Nagesh Kaladagi Shankar affidavit Dt.08/03/2023 Notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

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HEALTH TIP: While washing your face helps your skin remain bacteria-free, too much washing can remove your skin's natural, helpful oils

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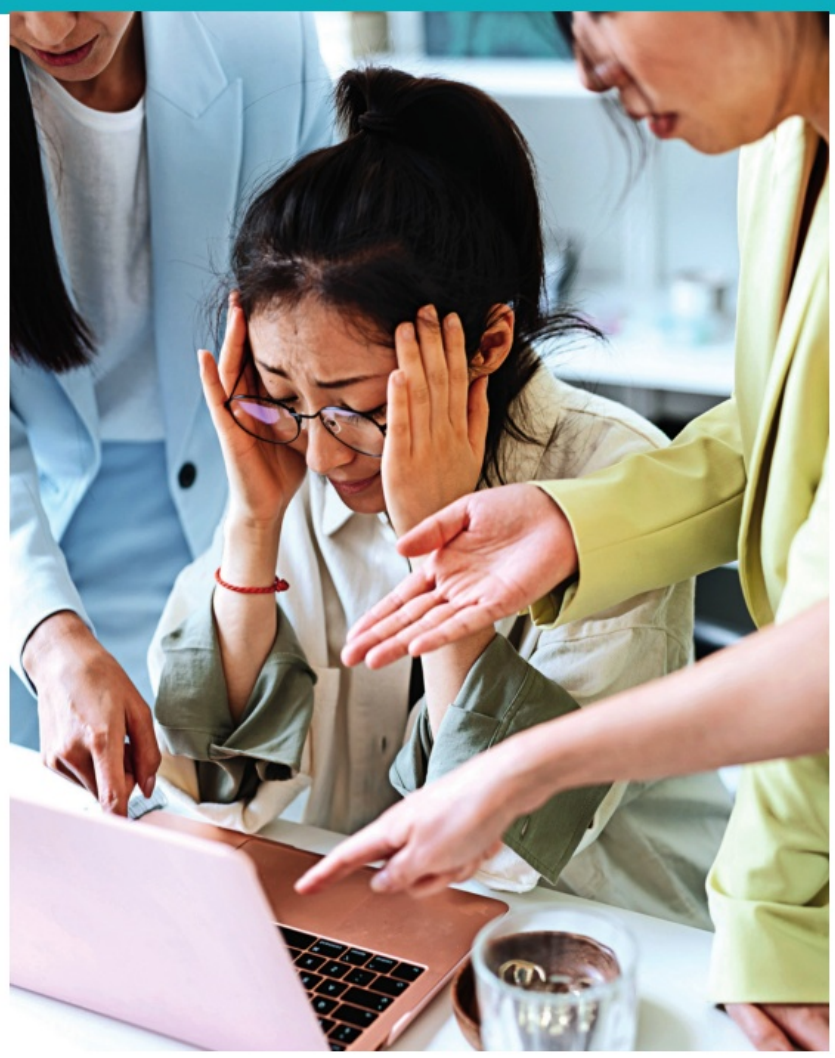
'Dark lords' of the office

Here are 5 tips to avoid close encounters with people with 'dark personality traits' at work



Have you ever suffered through tales of greatness from a self-absorbed "friend" who reminds you of Michael Scott from "The Office" – and not in a good way? Have you been betrayed by a colleague out of the blue, undermined on a project by the office mean girl, or had a work friendship dropped altogether without explanation?

If any of these scenarios sound familiar, you may have been dealing with someone who has what psychologists term a "dark personality." These people score higher on three socially undesirable traits: narcissism, psychopathy and Machiavellianism.

As an organisational scholar, I've spent years studying personality traits in the context of the sales profession. In recent work, my colleagues and I focused on the ways people with these dark personalities succeed in sales organisations and the social factors that allow them to extend their successful tenures. Based on our research, here's a primer on these antagonistic personality types – and how you can unmask examples.

Defining the dark personalities

Narcissists have the most familiar type of dark personality. They aren't shy about letting you know exactly how highly they think of themselves. At work, you might find the narcissist bragging about their superior sales skills, even though their performance isn't much better than the average salesperson. Conservative estimates of narcissism in the general population fall around 6.2%.

While narcissistic behaviour can be annoying, it's more tolerable than what the other two dark traits serve up.

Functional – meaning noncriminal – psychopaths are particularly disturbing. Psychologists estimate they comprise up to 4% of the population. Psychopaths have no qualms about exploiting others for own benefit. Stubbornly antisocial, functional psychopaths generally have little empathy for others. They're more concerned about "getting theirs" by any means necessary. Psychopaths are quick to deflect blame and throw others under the bus, even if it means telling lies.

With their impulsive tendencies, psychopaths are prone to telling lies for no reason at all. If you find yourself in a group water-cooler conversation and hear someone telling lies that don't seem to serve any purpose, you might have stumbled on a functional psychopath.

In the workplace, at first a psychopath may seem charming. But eventually you'll likely find yourself either questioning their motivations, or becoming a victim of their destructive behaviour. Though they can be harder to identify than narcissists with their nonstop bragging, psychopaths' egregious behaviour tends to unmask them in the end.

Machiavellians are the most prevalent of the dark personalities, estimated to be about 16% of the population. They get their name from Italian Renaissance statesman Nicolo Macchiavelli, who believed the ends could justify immoral means. Less annoying than narcissists, less abrasive than functional psychopaths, Machiavellians are more subtle in the pursuit of their agendas. They forge ahead regardless of ethical considerations. Like lions, Machiavellians seem benevolent, watching their prey from afar – until they strike. They're adept at playing the long game – it's their stealth, patience and subtle manipulation that make them a dangerous dark personality.

Compared with a psychopath's unnecessary lies, you're more likely to overhear the Machiavellian telling little white lies that are strategically designed to further a future agenda. For example, you may hear them flattering the colleague who will be getting a big bonus in the near future – the Machiavellian may be strategically laying the groundwork for being invited to help them spend it.

In short, targets of dark personalities likely find narcissists to be conspicuously and irritatingly self-centered, but generally innocuous. Psychopaths are less obvious in their bad behaviour, but their transgressions can be quite severe. Machiavellians are less in-your-face than narcissists, and their nefarious actions are likely to be less severe than those of psychopaths. In the long run, though, a Machiavellian can leave you reeling from an unexpected betrayal to benefit their personal agenda.

As you consider these dark traits and how they show up in interpersonal relationships, you might sense a spark of recognition. Here are five tips for avoiding dark personalities in your own life or minimising the harm they cause.

1. Don't fall for first impressions

Dark personalities are experts at making great first impressions, drawing you in with humour and charisma. So, when you meet someone new, be wary of superficial appeal. Narcissists, with their tendency to talk themselves up, are the easiest to spot.

To identify the others, ask questions about past relationships and listen carefully for clues about who this person is. Because dark personalities are almost always unmasked in the end, they're less likely to have long-standing friendships – an absence they may explain away by faulting others. Just be mindful not to overcorrect and ditch a potential new work friend based only on first impressions, either.

2. Share your own (bad) experiences

When you encounter a dark personality and the outcome is unpleasant, you might feel embarrassed for allowing yourself to be fooled, or you might feel guilt when you observe someone treating someone else badly. As a result, you might not want to talk about it. Dark personalities exploit that reluctance because your silence helps keep hidden their "core of darkness" – the antagonistic traits that define them. So to help unmask the dark personality and keep others from meeting the same fate, sharing your experience, with discretion, is critical.

3. Clue bosses in

Those with dark personalities are good at carefully managing the impressions they make on people in positions of power. So, at work, you can practice managing up to help your boss see the dark personality more clearly.

Share your experiences in a nongossipy way, such as expressing concern about incidents of incivility that you witnessed or requesting advice in dealing with a boastful colleague who may be alienating prospects. It may help your boss see through the facade and help you deal with the issue.

4. Plug into networks

On the flip side, remember to also listen to others. To avoid falling into a manipulator's web, tap into the network of those around you who share a link to the person in question. See if you can gather references regarding their behaviour over the long term. Ideally, you can benefit from others' knowledge.

5. Be aware of your own biases

Don't underestimate the strength of a dark personality's machinations. When someone shares a personal story of betrayal, be wary of thinking, "that would never happen to me!" Dark personalities are experts in manipulating situations to serve their interests, and you may never notice you're ensnared until it's too late. Considering yourself too smart or savvy to ever find yourself in the same predicament is misguided.

As you apply these tips in your life, you want to be wary of becoming an armchair pscyhologist. Anyone can have a bad day – and everyone has. Instead of diagnosing friends, partners and colleagues based on what you think might be their underlying personality traits, focus on any bad behaviours you personally witness, and respond to the actions – not what you think underlies them. Best leave that to the professionals.

If you are in charge of organisations or teams, consider having clear guidance and pathways of communication for individuals to report any concerning behavior they witness. By working together and sharing collective experiences, the rest of us can shine light on the workplace misdeeds of those with antagonistic personalities.

— Cinthia Beccacece Satornino (University of New Hampshire), The Conversation

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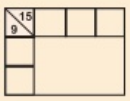
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

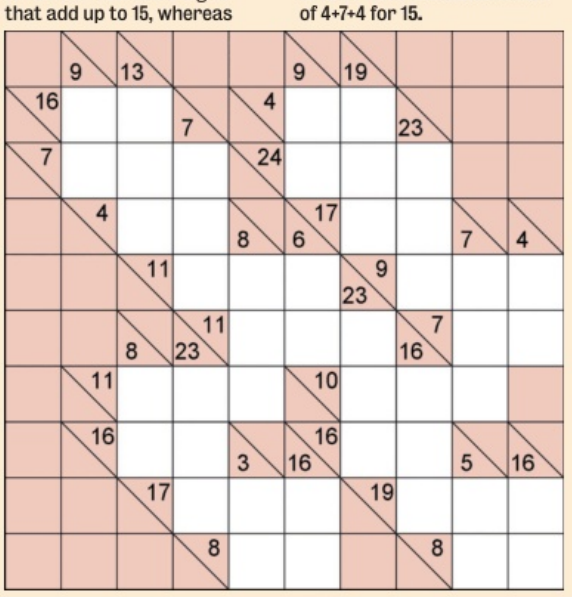
2, 9, 30, H, 282
H = ?

Kakuro

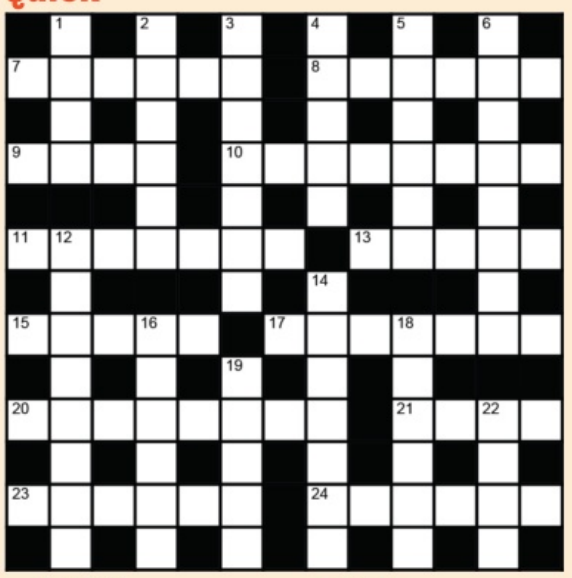
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Contusion (6)
8 A small piece of gossip? (6)
9 Sound grating (4)
10 Hardens or becomes bonelike (8)
11 Bollywood's Ms Kaif (7)
13 Savoury jelly (5)
15 Extremely fat (5)
17 Unshaven (7)
20 Fattest, most robust (8)
21 Sleep lightly (4)
23 Decanted (6)
24 NW American state (6)

DOWN

1 Opera part (4)
2 Capital of Assam (6)
3 Answers back (7)
4 Secret store or hiding place (5)
5 Packs tightly, forces or crams? (6)
6 Supply route (4-4)
12 Aspiration (8)
14 Groom's helper (4,3)
16 Four-sided figure (6)
18 It enrages bulls (3,3)
19 Intoxicating (5)
22 Middle Eastern restaurant on Coles Road (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS N

EK KEL JT FTLZLTT JE DAJT QKVZB QAK ZJWADLET DAL HFVBLE KR JD DK IEUKEL LZTL.

Linemaro

Do you have a band aid? I hurt my knee falling for you

Mindchow

It is not the same to talk of bulls as to be in the bull ring

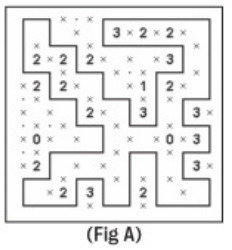
Joke of the day

Hold that pose. My camera is ringing

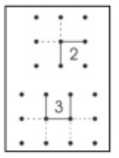
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

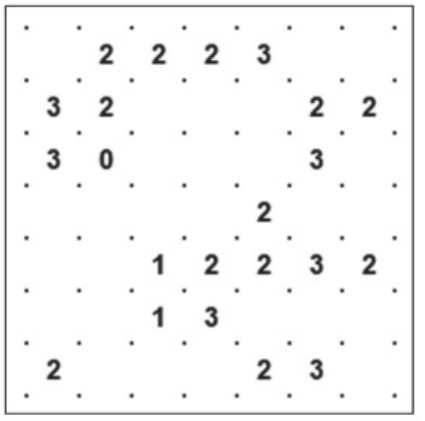


(Fig B) Not Allowed

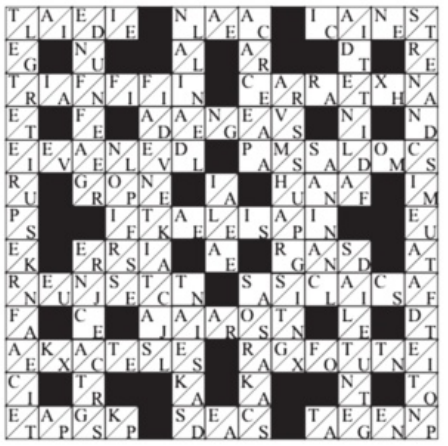
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



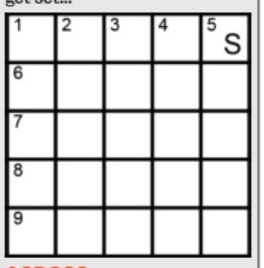
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

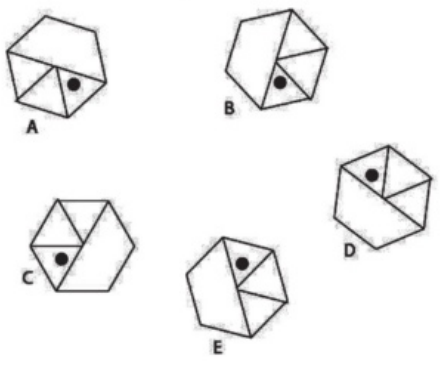
1 Ma sis; 6 Monet;
7 In Elf; 8 Crans;
9 De Ark

DOWN

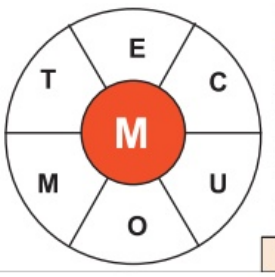
1 Me and; 2 Moral;
3 If ran; 4 Ticks;
5 Essen

Mensapuzzle

Which is the odd one out?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	3			8			1	
			9		2			
4	2	8				6	3	9
8				9				6
		2	5		3	4		
5				2				1
9	7	6				1	2	4
			2		1			
	5			4			8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 2
1 2 6 9

Medium = 10
1 6 7 8

Hard = 10
6 7 9 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

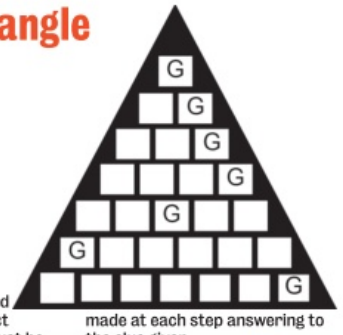
Differences: 1. Arm is lower. 2. Tie is different. 3. Hat is different. 4. Roof is different. 5. Fence is longer. 6. Man in background is reversed.

Riddler

An elderly pool attendant is starting to get sick of having to open the swimming pool every Monday, so he decides that the pool will remain closed on Mondays from now on. Being of reasonably limited English, he makes up a sign which he hangs from the front gate. What's special about his sign? NOW NO SWIMS ON MON

Alpha triangle

1 1000 colloquially
2 Silver symbol
3 Price indicator
4 Sharp taste
5 Mental torment
6 Behemoths
7 Squandering



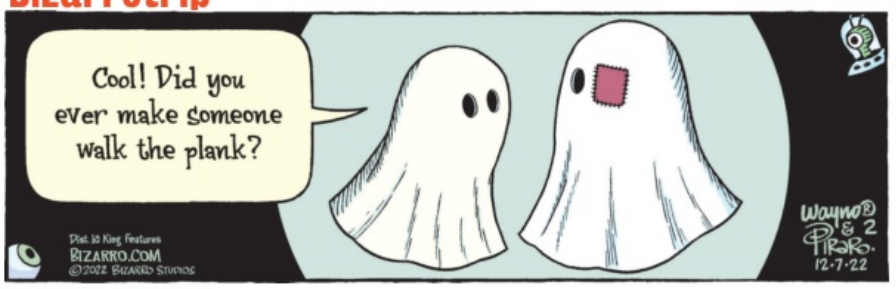
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

WE'LL BE DOING MAKEUP IN THIS ROOM, AND THE GREEN ROOM IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!
THIS IS SO EXCITING! MY FIRST TV ACTING GIG! IT'S GONNA ROCKET ME TO FAME FOR SURE!!
YOU MUST BE HEART! HERE'S YOUR SCRIPT!
THANKS!
THAT'S IT?!
HEART
YUM.
END SCENE
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Crankshaft

WHAT'S THAT OTHER STUFF MIXED IN WITH LENA'S CHRISTMAS COOKIES?
I THINK IT'S TAFFY.
WHAT IS TAFFY, ANYWAY?
I THINK IT'S FRENCH FOR INEDIBLE.
11-30
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may feel dull. You may have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in business. It is also advised not to start new ventures. You are likely to face losses in business. Your gains are likely to convert to losses.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. You may be able to take quick decisions on the professional front. You may expect to get new opportunities in terms of business, which may boost your confidence levels. You are likely to start a new innovation with the help of your partner, which may grow your business in the near future.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by the moon and may perform well at work. You may expect some promotions or transfers in terms of gains. You may also plan to change your current job. Your relationship with your boss may be boosted now. Chronic health issues will be resolved, which can make your family happy.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you are blessed by the moon, which can give you confidence. You may be able to take important decisions confidently. You are decisive, so you may grab any opportunity without a second thought. You are likely to spend money on family and friends. Lovebirds may enjoy happy moments. Job aspirants may get a suitable job with the help of friends.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may feel dull. You may not enjoy your day. You may be a victim of arrogance. It may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are advised to control your straightforwardness. Your loose talk may affect people around you. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying some worthless items. Your mind is likely to work very fast, so it is advised to make important decisions with patience.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may take quick decisions, which may give you benefits in your day-to-day life. You may take some tough decisions with the help of your colleagues. You are likely to get success easily. Property-related disputes between siblings are likely to be resolved. You may also expect some short trips.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you are advised to think before you act. Do not be rude or disrespectful to the people around you. Keep track of your expenditures, otherwise your bank balance will be affected. Your loved ones will support you.

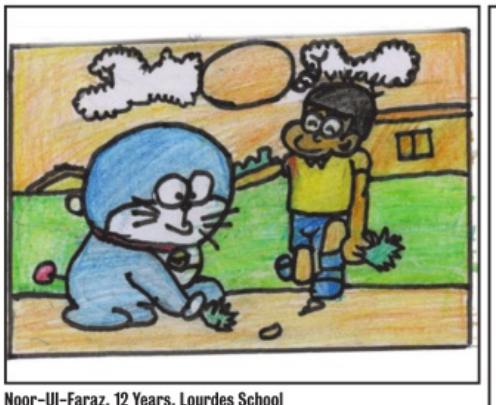
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may not feel great. Old health issues may arise and make you upset. You may take some wrong decisions due to impatience and hurrying. It is advised to think twice before making any decision. It is advised to not keep money loose, otherwise you may spend it on buying worthless items.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today there may be peace in your mind. You may plan to invest some capital in business, which may increase your liquidity. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in your family life. Singles are likely to find a suitable match. Lovebirds may decide to get married.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be very happy. Your losses may convert into profits.
Your seniors may be happy and will appreciate your work. You are likely to see some changes in your place, position, or responsibilities at work in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and lovebirds may take important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you are blessed by the moon, which can make you happy. Last week's crunch is now over. With the help of blessings, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to re-initiate your postponed works. There are some gains in your business, which may boost your finances.

KIDZONE



Noor-Ul-Faraz, 12 Years, Lourdes School

Sharvari Kulkarni, 5 Years, Kidzee

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(2 + 1) * 3 = 9
(9 + 1) * 3 = 30
(30 + 1) * 3 = 93
(93 + 1) * 3 = 282

BULL'S EYE
come, comet, COMMUTE, memo, mote, mute, tome

STRIKE OUT

L	A	D	E	L	A	C	C	A	N	T				
E		U		A		R		T		R				
T	I	F	F	I	N	E	A	R	T	H	A			
T		F	D	E	N	E	S		I		N			
E	V	E	N	E	D	P	S	A	L	M	S			
R		R	O	N		I		U	N	A		M		
P		I	T	A	L	I	A	N				U		
E		R	I	E		G	A	D				T		
F	E		A	A	R	O	N		L			T		
R	E	J	E	C	T		S	I	L	I	C	A		
O	B	E	S	E		B	E	A	R	D	E	D		
K	A	T	R	I	N	A		A	S	P	I	C		
R	A	S	P		O	S	S	I	F	I	E	S		
B	R	U	I	S	E		T	I	T	B	I	T		
A	D	R		S	S		T	E	E	N				
N		E	Y		N	G	S							

FAST FIVE

A	M	I	S	S
M	O	N	T	E
E	L	F	I	N
N	A	R	C	S
D	R	A	K	E

QUOTE UNCODE
No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone else.

QUICK

A	D	R		S	S		P							
B	R	U	I	S	E		T	I	T	B	I	T		
P	O	U	R	E	D		A	L	A	S	K	A		
N		E	Y		N	G	S							
	I		A		A		M		R		A			
S	T	O	U	T	E	S	T		D	O	Z	E		
	I		O		H		S		E					
O	B	E	S	E		B	E	A	R	D	E	D		
	M		S		B				N					
K	A	T	R	I	N	A		A	S	P	I	C		
	U		I		H		F		L					
R	A	S	P		O	S	S	I	F	I	E	S		
I		S		J		A		U		P				
B	R	U	I	S	E		T	I	T	B	I	T		
A	D	R		S	S		T	E	E	N				
N		E	Y		N	G	S							

MENSA PUZZLE
8: the rest are the same figure rotated.

RIDDLER
If you spin the sign upside down it will still read the same thing as it did

SUDOKU

7	3	9	4	8	6	5	1	2
6	1	5	9	3	2	8	4	7
4	2	8	7	1	5	6	3	9
8	4	3	1	9	7	2	5	6
1	9	2	5	6	3	4	7	8
5	6	7	8	2	4	3	9	1
9	7	6	3	5	8	1	2	4
3	8	4	2	7	1	9	6	5
2	5	1	6	4	9	7	8	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, Ag, Tag, Tang, Angst, Giants, Wastine.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 x 2 – 1 – 9 = 2
Medium
8 + 7 – 6 + 1 = 10
Hard
6 – 9 + 6 + 7 = 10

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 15, Issue No 164 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Rekha may inaugurate BIFF Bengaluru is all set to host the 14th Edition of Bengaluru International Film Festival from March 23 to 30. The festival would be inaugurated by veteran Bollywood actress Rekha

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Spot the difference

...It is hard to tell B-Town weddings apart with pretty similar attires & photo-shoots

Framed: Kiara-Sidharth and Natasha-Varun

The season of 'hush-hush' weddings has been upon us for a few years now... every year we have a celebrity losing their single status to love. But why does it always feel like a repeat telecast of the last wedding we witnessed?

The denial after denial

Keeping everything a secret and yet letting out details is a perfect example of a whisper campaign. The media has the confirmed dates, destinations, guest list and what not... but celebrities refuse to even acknowledge that they are a couple! Anushka Shama denied her wedding to Virat Kohli till the last moment... Katrina-Vicky, Alia-Ranbir, Kiara-Sidharth all followed suit. Talk about open secrets and nothing beats Bollywood weddings.

Athiya-KL Rahul, Anushka-Virat managed to keep details a secret

Kiara Advani, Natasha Dalal, Neha Dhupia, Neha Kakkar and many others followed suit. However, Sonam Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone delighted us with their traditional red drapes.

Pastel brigade

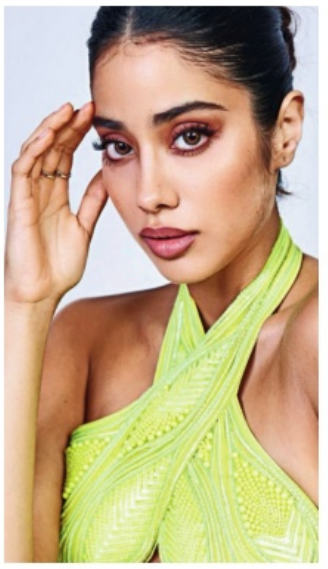
Pastel wedding lehengas seem to be in fashion since forever now! After Mira Rajput impressed us with her pretty pink pastel bridal lehenga in 2015, Anushka Sharma wore the same shade for her wedding in Tuscany and Alia Bhatt, Athiya Shetty,

Katrina and Alia in pastels

Same pinch!

Blame it on the photographer or the wedding planners or the lack of new trends but all filmy weddings look the same shade. The usual pecks of love, sun-kissed clicks, posing around the fire and strikingly similar mogra garlands... despite different destinations, most Bollywood weddings seem to be woven through the same thread. Instead of the typical posing and picture-perfect moments, we yearn for the lesser seen, candid clicks which get lost in perfection. We love all the creativity in the captions and hope to be served some more experimental and exciting wedding flavour in the future! **-ETimes**

Not everything is on a platter



Boney Kapoor and Sridevi's daughter Janhvi Kapoor might have had an easier time than others in the industry. However, the actress has had her share of struggles. In a recent interview, she opened up about people constantly questioning her acting skills on the internet just because she is a star kid.

Janhvi said that she is prioritising hard work and she has always been very clear about her goals in life. According to her, she wishes to live up to her late mother's legacy. The actress also clarified that this doesn't come from a place of arrogance, but a desire to want to give back to her parents, as well as the audiences. Janhvi also went on to say that while she might have gotten certain opportunities more easily, she also feels like she is at a disadvantage. In that sense, people aren't going to come and watch her films from a neutral perspective. So she has to convince them that she has something to offer. She added that she loves cinema, and she is not apologetic about it anymore, because she knows she is good at what she does. She is just warming up, Janhvi told Harper's Bazaar. **-ETimes**

Priyanka's V-Day plans

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas has shared the trailer release date of her upcoming film, 'Love Again'. The actress took to her Instagram on Wednesday and shared a video about her Valentine's Day plan which "involves Celine Dion", the Canadian singer known for her superhit track 'My Heart Will Go On' from the James Cameron directorial 'Titanic'.

She captioned the video: "YOU, Celine, Sam & I... let's make a plan for Valentine's Day. We're bringing you @loveagainmovie - trailer in ONE WEEK! @samheughan @celinedion."

With all the visually pleasing looks & moments, 'Love Again' is the one film everyone globally is looking forward to.

The film, which also stars Russell Tovey, Steve Oram, Omid Djalili, Sofia Barclay, Lydia West, Arinze Kene and Celia Imrie, is produced by Screen Gems and distributed by Sony Pictures.

Recently, Priyanka's husband Nick Jonas spoke about their daughter attending a public event for the first time. Speaking on the 'Today Show', Nick said: "It was really her first time out in public and we were nervous about it. The whole day I think was such a great setting for the family to be together and for all of us to celebrate. Having my little girl out there was really special." **-IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

A breakthrough

Saarthak, who is known for his performance in TV serial Avanu Mathu Shravani, has been busy in promoting his maiden Kannada movie South Indian Hero that is scheduled for release shortly.

"I worked with Infosys for a while. My passion towards movies made me quit the job when the management asked me to go abroad on an assignment. I am lucky to have parents who allowed me to pursue my passion," says Saarthak with a smile.

Saarthak had to wait for more than five years to make his debut. "I watched the movie First Rank Raju, directed by Naresh Kumar. I enjoyed it very much and began meeting Naresh Kumar. After a year, Naresh narrated the script of South Indian Hero to me," says Saarthak.

He shares screen space with Kashima in the movie. "I play a extrovert physics teacher while Kashima is a music teacher. I did not know much about Kashima before but after we attended a workshop before the shoot, we became friends," he says.

He said the happiest moment was when Real Star Upendra appreciated him and Kashima after watching the movie.

Border-line matter

Director Santosh Kumar, who has handled the megaphone for Kannada movies Students and Bindaas Googly, is all set to come out with one more youth-oriented movie – College Kranthi - after a gap of four years. College Kranthi is scheduled for release on February 24. Its trailer was released at Renukamba Preview Theater recently and SA Chinne Gowda, brother of Parvathamma Rajkumar, was the chief guest at the event.

"I have seen the trailer of this movie. All the actors are newcomers but they have acted well. I wish them all the best," said Chinne Gowda. Veteran character actor Keerthi Raj plays the father of two heroes while Vanishree plays the mother.

Santosh Kumar said the movie revolves around Agni Rampura, a village on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border.

"The movie showcases how rowdy elements rule the roost at villages on the border and how it affects college students and finally how they overcome the rowdy elements," said Santosh Kumar.